

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-14 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 10-14 being independent. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 3 and 6-11 have been amended and Claims 12-14 are newly-presented herein.

Initially, at Item 10 of the Office Action Summary, the originally-filed drawings are discussed, but it is not indicated whether the drawings were accepted or objected to by the Examiner. No drawing objections are noted in the Detailed Action, so it is Applicant's understanding that the original drawings are accepted. Confirmation of such is requested.

In addition, at page 2 of the Detailed Action, it is stated that Applicant has not filed a certified copy of the foreign priority application. However, a check of the PTO's PAIR system confirms that the certified copy, which was filed with the Submission of Priority Document on July 6, 2004, has been received by the PTO. It is respectfully requested that the next official communication acknowledge such receipt.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicant has reworded the language questioned by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection are requested.

Claims 1, 6, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated U.S. Patent No. 6,256,516 (Ishikawa et al.). Claims 4, 5 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al. Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0070103 (Kim). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Ishikawa et al. relates to a power control system in which power is distributed to peripheral devices. A power controller can acquire properties of a plurality of connected devices, decide the optimum power distribution and control the power controllers of each of the devices. As understood by Applicant, in Ishikawa et al. an operation mode of a particular device (printer) is changed to reduce power consumption when an external device is newly-connected. That is, as the newly-connected external device begins to operate, an operation mode for the particular device (printer) is automatically changed to another operation mode in order to reduce power consumption. In other words, in Ishikawa et al., each newly-connected device has priority for use of

operation power because when an external device is to be connected later, the operation mode of the previously-connected device (printer) is automatically changed.

Conversely, with the present invention, the operating state of the previously-connected external device can take priority and affect control of supply of the operating power to a newly-connected external device. For example, until the operating state of a previously-connected external device enters an idle mode, a newly-connected external device does not enter an operation state. That is, until the power supply to the previously-connected external device ceases, the newly-connected external device does not enter an operation state. On the other hand, if the power consumption state of the previously-connected external device changes, then the newly-connected external device can begin to operate. However, even if the newly-connected external device is in a connection state, the newly-connected external device cannot operate until the power consumption state of the previously-connected external device is reduced or ceases.

Accordingly, Ishikawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least that after a previously-connected external device enters an idle state, power supply to the previously-connected external device is stopped and power supply to a newly-connected external device is started, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 10 and 11. Nor does Ishikawa et al. disclose or suggest that after power supply to a previously-connected external device is stopped, power supply to a newly-connected external device is started, as is recited in newly-presented independent Claim 12. Furthermore, Ishikawa et al. does not disclose or

suggest notifying that the operation of a previously-connected external device stops when determined that the total amount of power required exceeds the amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying, as is recited in independent Claim 13, or notifying that a newly-connected external device cannot be used during operation of a previously-connected external device when determined that the total amount of power required exceeds the amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying, as is recited in independent Claim 14.

Thus, Ishikawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Kim is directed to control of power supply of USB devices coupled to a host. The power supply is controlled based on whether the USB devices are operative. Power supply can be interrupted if a state of signals on corresponding data lines coupled to a host represents an inoperative state of the host or the individual USB. Power supply is not controlled based on which device was connected first. Although the Office Action suggests that it “is possible that the first device is first connected and second device is later connected,” such is not explicitly or implicitly taught in Kim. Accordingly, Kim fails to remedy the deficiencies of Ishikawa et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 10-14. Dependent Claims 3 and 5-9 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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